

The administration supports the enactment of civil penalties as the best means of enforcing existing restrictions, and that is exactly what we do in the Libertad bill. So there goes that wide wingspread again from left to right.

Mr. President, I am going to reserve the remainder of my time because I have one or two other points that I may want to make, but I want there to be enough time for Senator SIMON to make whatever rebuttal he wishes to make.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I think if we can, before we vote—I understand we are going to vote at 4 o'clock.

Mr. HELMS. Yes.

Mr. SIMON. If each of us can have 2 minutes, if that is satisfactory to the Senator from North Carolina, that is satisfactory to me.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, that is certainly a fair and reasonable request. I ask unanimous consent that 4 minutes equally divided be provided at 4 o'clock on the Simon amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SIMON. I would yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HELMS. And I yield back the remainder of my time. I see the distinguished majority leader. I am glad to yield to the majority leader.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. I understand the chairman has gotten the consent that we stand in recess at noon until 4 p.m.

I might explain to my colleagues, the purpose of this is so that the Finance Committee can complete action on the tax cut package. They agreed yesterday to have 7 hours and then they would vote. They started at 9 o'clock this morning. We cannot get consent for the Finance Committee to meet while the Senate is in session, so we have no recourse but to let the Finance Committee meet all afternoon. But right now they are moving along at a pretty rapid pace, and they would like to complete action. Hopefully, at 4 o'clock, they could finish and the Senate could come in and, as I understand, there will be three votes and then final passage.

Then after that we will hopefully take up the Labor, HHS appropriations bill or, if there has been any progress, State Department reorganization. I understand there is another meeting, the chairman has another meeting this afternoon at 2 o'clock. So hopefully we can finish action this afternoon on the tax cut package. Chairman ROTH and the ranking member, Senator MOYNIHAN, are trying to get that done by 4 o'clock. That would go to the Budget Committee. It is our hope that next Wednesday we will take up the reconciliation package on the Senate floor, Wednesday and Thursday. In the meantime, we have a number of items on which we hope to complete action.

I would also indicate that we will have, hopefully, next week a Transpor-

tation conference report; legislative branch appropriations, a new bill, but it is identical to the one vetoed by the President. That will be available early to midweek; energy and water conference report. That conference is going to convene next Tuesday at 9 o'clock. We hope to finish that day and then take that up. We are trying to get more and more of the appropriations bills to the President. We hope that he would indicate he will sign the bills.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, before we recess, I would like to take a moment to discuss President Clinton's appearance before reporters at the White House this morning.

Republicans have been willing to work with the President in our efforts to finally balance the budget. Regrettably, the President's veto threat today makes us wonder whether he is serious about working with the congressional majority to fulfill the mandate the American people gave us. If anyone needs to think again, in my view it is President Clinton. Rather than continuing his cynical reelection campaign designed to scare the American people, particularly senior citizens, he should show some leadership and work with us to balance the budget, cut taxes for American families, protect Medicare from bankruptcy, and overhaul welfare.

If any plan puts America's elderly at risk, it is the President's plan, which fails to offer any long-term reforms, any choices for seniors, and any real solutions, just sort of a Band-Aid to get us beyond the next election in 1996.

I think it is interesting that the President confessed this week he raised taxes too much in 1993. I think a \$265 billion tax increase is a bit too much. It affected senior citizens, people who drive automobiles, subchapter S corporations, a lot of Americans who did not consider themselves rich until the President announced that only the rich pay taxes. But he has learned since 1993 that other people pay these increased taxes, too, who are not rich, when he increased taxes on Social Security, when he increased taxes on gasoline, when he increased taxes on subchapter S corporations, and a number of other people who were not rich.

So I think now that he has confessed he made a mistake on raising taxes, he ought to confess he has made a mistake on not wanting to adopt a balanced budget. He fought us in an effort to pass a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. He convinced six Democrats who voted for a balanced budget last year to vote no this year. We lost by one vote. We had 66. We needed 67.

So it seems to me the President is now saying, well, I raised taxes too much but it was not my fault; Republicans are responsible. Not a single Republican in the House or the Senate voted for the tax increase. I do not un-

derstand how he can blame us for that. It was the biggest tax increase in American history. In fact, I think the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] said, no, it was the biggest tax increase in world history, and it probably was.

So I would ask the President today, now that he is feeling in a mood to say he has made mistakes—and we all make mistakes from time to time—we would be happy to have him join us in this budget debate in balancing the budget by the year 2002 and protecting, preserving, strengthening Medicare and overhauling welfare and providing tax cuts for families with children, the very thing that the President proposed, I might add.

About 70 percent of our total tax credit goes to families. They are not rich. On the Senate side we have capped what your total income could be if you are going to be eligible for the tax credit for your children.

So, Mr. President, we agree you raised taxes too much. We agree it hurt the economy. We agree it probably cost a lot of jobs in America. We agree it cost a lot of dislocation, a lot of pain, a lot of suffering. But now that you have confessed to making that mistake, let us not make another mistake. Let us work together. Let us try to balance the budget, Mr. President. Let us try to save Medicare, Mr. President, and try to have a good tax cut for families with children and stimulate the economy with the capital gains rate reduction, and then reform welfare, which the President indicates he supports.

We are prepared. I know the Speaker is prepared. I hope that we might have some cooperation.

I yield the floor. And I think it is 12 o'clock.

RECESS UNTIL 4 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 12 o'clock having arrived, the Senate stands in recess until 4 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12 noon, the Senate recessed until 4 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. THOMPSON).

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1995

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2934

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the Simon amendment numbered 2934. There are 4 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.